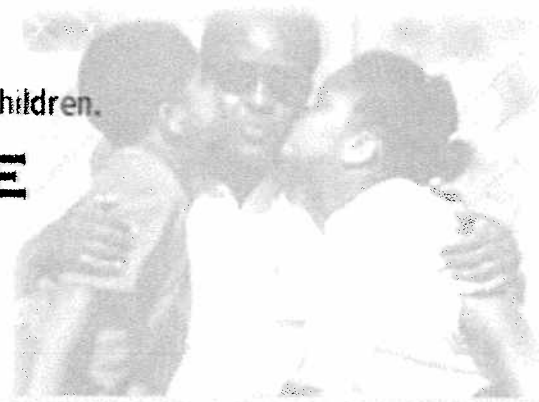


Charter School Facts

As parents in Michigan, we have a right to choose a school for our children.

OUR CHILDREN DESERVE EXCELLENT SCHOOLS.

We deserve excellent choices.



Complying with Laws & Regulations

- Charter authorizers collect and scrutinize reams of information from their schools. CMU has three auditors monitoring the financial reports of 59 charters. That compares to a similar number of MDOE staff looking over some 800 districts and ISDs.
- Charters often provide increased services such as extended school days and years, tutoring services, enhanced individual attention and differentiated instruction, character education and early foreign language instruction.

Charter Funding

- Michigan spent \$18.5 billion on state aid for education last year; \$780 million of that went to charters.
- Charter Schools achieve academic excellence and are chosen by parents even though charter schools receive about \$2,612 less per pupil in funding than their host districts.

Charter Demographics

- More than half of Michigan's 100,000 charter students qualify for free- or reduced-price lunch; 66% of charter students are minorities.
- More than two-thirds of the state's 230 charter schools have waiting lists.

Financial Impact on Traditional Districts

- Charters benefit communities by providing educational choices that attract and retain families and prepare students for productive futures. Some states leverage the existence of charters to attract new business.

Teacher Certification

- Charter teachers are certified under state law, just like teachers in any school. Michigan Department of Education data from fall 2006 shows 95% of charter teachers are certified.
- Some charter teachers—such as someone teaching a specialized automotive program—fall outside typical certification processes.

Special Education Services

- About 9% of charter students receive special education services. About 10% of these students overcome their learning difficulties, complete individual education plans and leave the “special ed” ranks.
- Michigan charters also are leaders in assessing and working with children to prevent early learning failure and avoid the need to ever place students in “special education.”

Academic Achievement

- Charters exceeded their host districts on 23 of 27 MEAP tests in the 2006-07 school year.
- More than 100 charters include high school grades and have achieved an 86% graduation rate—12 points above their hosts districts, according to the Michigan Department of Education.

MAPSA



Michigan Association of Public School Academies

The unified voice of Michigan's 229 charter schools,
4,500+ teachers and 100,000 students.

www.charterschools.org